

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 02995 120900 Z

11

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 EUR-10 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 OMB-01 USIA-04 RSR-01

/059 W

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R 120813 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8759

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 2995

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK, IN, BD

SUBJ: INDO/ PAK/ BANGLADESH RELATIONS: CONVERSATION

WITH PRES. BHUTTO

REFS: ISLAMABAD 2993 AND 2946

1. DURING MY APRIL 11 MEETING WITH PRES. BHUTTO AT MURREE, I ASKED WHAT NEW POSSIBILITIES OF ACTION TOWARD BREAKING SUBCONTINENTAL DEADLOCK HE MIGHT SEE, NOW THAT HE HAD SUCCESSFULLY CLEARED DOMESTIC CONSTITUTIONAL HURDLE. I GOT IMPRESSION THAT CONSTITUTIONAL EVENTS HAD GONE SO FAST THAT BHUTTO HAD NOT YET CONSIDERED IMPACT ON HIS ABILITY TO DEAL WITH QUESTIONS OF RELATIONS WITH INDIA OR BANGLADESH. HE ASKED WHETHER THERE WERE ANY SIGNS OF MOVEMENT IN DELHI OR DACCA. I SAID I HAD IMPRESSION THAT GOI WAS LOOKING FOR A WAY TO BREAK INTO CYCLE OF INACTION, AND THAT WAS PROBABLY WHY HAKSAR HAD RECENTLY GONE TO DACCA .

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I SAID I ALSO HAD IMPRESSION THAT GOI MIGHT WELCOME ANY NEW INITIATIVE BY GOP WHICH MIGHT MAKE IT EASIER TO PROCEED TOWARDS RELEASE OF POWS.

2. BHUTTO SAID HE DID NOT THINK HE WOULD BE ABLE TO MOVE TO RECOGNITION OF BANGLADESH PRIOR TO THE NEW ELECTIONS WHICH HE HAD JUST TOLD ME HE WAS PLANNING TO HOLD IN AUGUST. THERE WOULD BE TOO MUCH ON HIS PLATE BEFORE THEN. I SAID I HOPED HE MIGHT RECONSIDER ON THAT QUESTION AFTER HE HAD SOME MORE TIME TO ASSESS HIS NEW STRENGTH FOLLOWING ENACTMENT OF CONSTITUTION. I THEN ASKED WHETHER HE MIGHT ALSO RECONSIDER POSSIBLE BENEFITS OF RELEASING SOME OF BENGALIEE DETAINEES, BEYOND THOSE 15,000 OR SO ALREADY SCHEDULED FOR REPATRIATION. I SAID I HAD IN MIND PARTICULARLY BENGALIEE FORMER CIVILIAN OFFICIALS BEING HELD HERE WHOSE RETURN MIGHT PERHAPS BE MOST KEENLY APPRECIATED BY GBD. BHUTTO DID NOT APPEAR TO BE IN MOOD TO PURSUE THIS MATTER AT THE MOMENT, AND I CONSIDERED BEST TO LET IT DROP THERE. SOBER

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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KARACHI
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NEW DELHI

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